

Lesson Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Lesson ID: 50207-67583

Title: 24TH MEU (SOC) OPERATIONS IN AND AROUND KISMAYO, SOMALIA

Operation/Exercise Name: RESTORE HOPE

Observed: 27 Apr 1993

Originator: WPNS CO BLT 1/2

POC: CAPT MCBROOM Commercial: (919)451-3288 DSN: 4843288

5. (U) OBSERVATION:

None.

6. (U) DISCUSSION:

While operating in the Kismayo area numerous manned checkpoints were established to regulate/screen Somalis entering/exiting Kismayo. The vast majority of these checkpoints were focused on the Main Supply Route (MSR) between Kismayo and Goob Weyn in order to interdict substantially large masses of people who had demonstrated in the past their ease to quickly assemble and move on the MSR in support of factional fighting. However, the Somalis also demonstrated their ability to conduct long distance cross country movement by foot. The numerous foot corridors entering Kismayo from the north and west provide ample avenues for infiltration by foot. Consequently, it is still possible, and in fact probable that hostile Somalis entered Kismayo at will.

7. (U) LESSON LEARNED:

Avoid a complete focus on the MSR.  
Maintain a presence, but prudently orient manpower towards mounted and dismounted patrols.

8. (U) RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Routinely and covertly insert squad sized units into the abandoned (permanent) buildings in the northern and western fringes of Kismayo where firefights have been a common occurrence. Through the use of surveillance and mobile reaction forces, keep the bandits off balance by not allowing them to know where they will be interdicted.

9. (U) COMMENTS:

None.

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